TAMIL NADU

- Kilpauk Government hospital – to get a new Cath lab soon
  - It has been installed at a cost of Rs 5 crores and expected to function soon
  - Using the facility, the hospital can provide treatment upto 15 heart patients every day
  - The facility is already available at Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital and Stanley hospital in Chennai

- Tamil Nadu education department – signs MoU with the education department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands – for collaboration in the exchange of educational services
  - The agreement was signed in the presence of education minister, K A Sengottaiyan on December 6, 2018 in Chennai
STATES

- Andhra Pradesh – CM, Chandrababu Naidu lays foundation stone for Sri Venkateswara Spiritual Theme Park at Avilala tank in Tirupati

- The Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) had taken up the theme park development works at an estimated cost of Rs 181.13 crores
- It is expected to come up as a major tourist attraction center in 150 acres on the northern side of Chennai- Anantapur National Highway No 275

- Nagaland CM – Neiphiu Rio launched the first ever ‘Swadesh Darshan’ project in the state

- It is named as ‘Development of Tribal Circuit: Peren-Kohima-Wokha Project’
- The project would be developed at a cost of Rs 97.36 crores
- Additionally, the Ministry of Tourism had also sanctioned another project in Nagaland titled ‘Development of Tribal circuit: Mokokchung–Tuensang-Mon’ at a budget of Rs.99.67 crore
- The Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched in 2014-15 to develop tourism circuits
Till date, 73 projects at a budget of Rs 5873.26 crore in 30 States/UT’s were sanctioned

**Maharashtra CM – Devendra Fadnavis launched a unique ‘SMART’ initiative in the state**
- SMART - State of Maharashtra’s Agribusiness and Rural Transformation
- The project is assisted by World Bank
- It aims to achieve sustainable farming by improving farm productivity and returns - with direct tie-up of the end buyers
- The scheme is in line with the Centre’s vision to double farmer’s income by 2022
- It was proposed at a budget of $300 million with World bank contributing $210 million
- CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) has been roped in as the industry partner of the initiative

**NATIONAL**

- Indian Railways – creates world record by converting a diesel locomotive into electric for the very first time - in just 69 days

The feat was achieved by the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi
- It had spent only Rs 2.5 crore for the conversion, whereas the mid-life rehabilitation cost of a diesel locomotive is around Rs 5 to 6 crores
- The work on this ambitious project began in December 2017
- DLW Varanasi has converted a WDG3-class 2,600 HP diesel locomotive into a 5000 HP electric locomotive
- The achievement comes in line with the Railway’s environment-friendly move of 100% electrification
- Union Cabinet – approves the launching of ‘National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems’ (NM-ICPS)

- It will be launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) at an expected budget of Rs 3660 crore for a period of five years
- The objective of the mission is to address technology development, application development, human resource development and skill enhancement, entrepreneurship and start-up development in Cyber physical technology
- As part of the mission, 15 Technology Innovation Hubs, 6 Application Innovation Hubs and 4 Technology Translation Research Parks will be established
- The cyber physical technology includes artificial intelligence, internet of things, big data analytics, robotics, quantum computing, communication and encryption, data science and predictive analytics along with cyber security

- Indigo – becomes the first Indian airlines to have 200 aircrafts in its fleet
The airline started its operations on August 4, 2006 with a Delhi-Imphal flight
It currently has 43% share of the domestic air travel market, as on October 2018
It recently became the first Indian airlines to fly over 50 lakh domestic passengers in a single month, October 2018

- India – signs MoU with Iran to pay in Rupees for the crude oil imports

- As per the pact, 50% of those payments will be used back for exporting items to Tehran
- India’s state-owned UCO Bank is expected to announce the payment mechanism in the next 10 days
- Under US sanctions, India will be allowed to export only farm commodities, food, medicines, and medical devices to Iran
- It has to be recalled that recently US has waived India to import a restricted quantity of crude oil from Iran for the next six months
- Iran is the third largest supplier of crude oil (around 10%) to India after Saudi Arabia and Iraq
- US President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran in May 2018, re-imposing economic sanctions on the country

- India – sign 2 MoUs with Sweden – for cooperation in the Renewable energy sector to bring the power efficiency and improve technology
- They were signed on the sidelines of inauguration of the ‘Sustainability by Sweden – Showroom India’ by Swedish Energy, Agency Business Sweden and Embassy of Sweden under the ‘Sweden India Nobel Memorial Programme’
- The showroom has been set up as part of the proposed bi-lateral programme ‘India Sweden Innovations Accelerator’, in which over 20 Swedish innovative technologies in the field of new and renewable energy sector would be presented
ECONOMY

- Reserve Bank of India – releases its 5th bimonthly monetary policy for FY18-19
  - **Highlights**
    - Repo rate is unchanged at 6.5%
    - Reverse Repo rate is also unchanged at 6.25%
    - GDP forecast – 7.4% for 2018-19 and 7.5% for the first half of 2019-20
    - Retail Inflation forecast – 2.7% to 3.2% for the second half of 2018-19
  - Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends to its clients
  - Reverse repo rate is the rate at which banks lend funds to RBI

- RBI – announces ‘Ombudsman scheme for digital transactions’
  - The scheme intends to address customer grievances related to digital transactions
  - The guidelines will be issued by end of December 2018 and the new scheme will be notified by the end of January 2019

- Fitch Ratings – lowers India’s GDP growth forecast to 7.2% for the current fiscal – due to increased financing cost and reduced credit availability
  - The forecast is even lesser than 7.4% proposed by RBI
  - It had predicted a growth of 7% and 7.1% for the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively
  - Globally, it had forecasted a growth of 3.3% for 2018 and 3.1% for 2019
  - For China, it had projected 6.6% growth in 2018 and 6.1% in 2019
  - Fitch had earlier forecasted India’s GDP growth to be 7.8% on September 2018 and 7.4% on July 2018
  - Indian economy grew 6.7% in FY 2017-18

APPPOINTMENTS

- Preeti Saran, former Indian diplomat – elected to the ‘Asia Pacific’ seat on the ‘Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights’ of the United Nations for a period of 4 years
She replaces Chandrasekhar Dasgupta, a 3 time elected former Indian diplomat
Prior to the appointment, she served as the External Affairs Ministry Secretary (East) and got retired
She was a former ambassador to Vietnam and was a minister and counsellor at India’s mission to the UN in Geneva

Lalit kumar Chandel – was appointed as the Government nominee in ICICI Bank
He is currently an Economic Advisor in the department of financial services of the finance ministry
He replaces Lok Ranjan, who was transferred to Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT)
Kumar had earlier worked with the insurance regulator, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as an executive director and financial adviser
Overall, there are 12 members on the board of ICICI, including Chairman Girish Chandra Chaturvedi, Managing Director and CEO Sandeep Bakhshi and three executive directors Vishakha Mulye, Vijay Chandok and Anup Bagchi

AWARDS

Dr Rajanish Giri, an Assistant Professor from IIT, Mandi – was awarded the Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award 2018

He was selected for the award for his pioneering idea on Zika virus Capsid Folding and inhibitor discovery
His research works are based in the area of protein folding in various structured and Intrinsically Disordered Proteins
He also received a research grant for a period of 3 years from Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology
SPORTS

➢ Yasir Shah (Pakistan) – becomes the fastest man to reach 200 Test wickets in his 33rd test - in the 3rd test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi

✔ He broke the long-held 82 years record of Clarrie Grimmett, who needed 36 tests to reach the milestone against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1936
✔ Yasir was also the fastest Pakistani bowler to take 50 wickets in 9 tests and 7th Pakistani bowler to take 200 or more wickets in tests

➢ Budapest, Capital of Hungary – was officially awarded to host 2023 IAAF World Championships
✔ The World Championships will return to Europe after a 6 year gap following Doha, Qatar in 2019 and Eugene, USA in 2021
✔ The 2017 IAAF World Championships was held at London, England
✔ Budapest has recently hosted the World Wrestling Championships in 2018
✔ It has also been awarded the title of European Capital of Sport for 2019
RANKINGS

- Forbes India Rich list 2018 and Forbes India 2018 Celebrity 100 – Released by Forbes India

Forbes India Rich list 2018 – Top 10

1 – Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries) - $47.3 billion
2 – Azim Premji (Wipro) - $21 billion
3 – Lakshmi Mittal (ArcelorMittal) - $18.3 billion
4 – Hinduja brothers (Ashok Leyland) - $18 billion
5 – Pallonji Mistry (Shapoorji Pallonji Group) - $15.7 billion
6 – Shiv Nadar (HCL Technologies) - $14.6 billion
7 – Godrej family (Godrej group) - $14 billion
8 – Dilip Shanghvi (Sun Pharmaceutical Industries) - $12.6 billion
9 – Kumar Birla (Aditya Birla Group) - $12.5 billion
10 – Gautam Adani (Adani Ports & SEZ) - $11.9 billion

- Forbes India 2018 Celebrity 100
- Salman Khan topped the list as the Highest paid celebrity for the third consecutive year
- Indian cricket team captain, Virat Kohli has been named the richest sportsperson in the country sitting second, right behind Salman Khan
- Actor Deepika Padukone, ranked at No 4 is the highest-earning woman celebrity and becomes the first woman to break into the top five positions since the inception of the List in 2012
- Cricket legend, Sachin Tendulkar holds a unique distinction of featuring in the top 10 every year, even though he retired in 2013. In the current list, he is ranked at No 9
PV Sindhu is ranked at 20th position as the highest paid female sportsperson. A total of 18 female celebrities made it to the top 100 of the Forbes’ list, which is a drop from the 21 reported last year. Fifteen of the celebrities on the list are from South India, with Tamil and Telugu industries having 7 actors each and Kerala with 1 actor.

Forbes India 2018 Celebrity 100 – Top 10

1 – Salman Khan – Rs 253.25 crore
2 – Virat Kohli – Rs 228.09 crore
3 – Akshay Kumar – Rs 185 crore
4 – Deepika Padukone – Rs 112.8 crore
5 – Mahendra Singh Dhoni – Rs 101.77 crore
6 – Aamir Khan – Rs 97.5 crore
7 – Amitabh Bachchan – Rs 96.17 crore
8 – Ranveer Singh – Rs 84.67 crore
9 – Sachin Tendulkar – Rs 80 crore
10 – Ajay Devgan – Rs 74.5 crore
IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Armed Forces Flag Day – December 7**

- The observance of the day acknowledges and honours the service of the country’s defence personnel in The Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- The day is celebrated since 1949 to honour the martyrs as well as the men and women in uniform, who safeguard the country.
- The day was constituted by the Centre for the welfare and rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen community.
- The day is dedicated for the collection of funds from people of India for the welfare of the Indian Armed Forces personnel.

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) had earlier directed all the varsities across the country to observe the day as ‘Armed Forces Flag day’ to commemorate the supreme sacrifices made by the country’s soldiers during conflicts.